MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

The Finance Bill, 1997

SECRETARY GENERAL: Madam, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Finance Bill, 1997, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th May, 1997.

The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India."

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—Contd.

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): Madam,...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do you have to lay something on the Table of the House?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: My name was at item No. 1 in the list of the Papers to be Laid on the Table.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: O.K. You lay your papers now.

I. Notification of the Ministry of Welfare

II. Report and Accounts (1995-96) of the Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi and Related, Papers.

III. Report and Accounts (1995-96) of the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Deharadun and Related Papers

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Madam, I lay on the Table—

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Welfare, Notification F. No. 5-62/93-RC I, dated the 31st March, 1997, publishing the Rehabilitation Council of India Regulations, 1997, under Section 30 of the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1981/97]

A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

II. (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1835/97]

III. (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute for the Visually handicapped, Dehradun for the year 1995-96, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1836/97]

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I want to raise an important point and a very serious lapse on the part of the Government. That is about the non-laying of the papers relating to the report on export-import policy. I read about this policy almost two weeks ago. That has been announced and the papers have already reported. I also understand that a book on this policy has been released and many of the business people have already read it and many Officers are already having it with them. Madam, I have been here in the House for the last eleven or twelve years. Every year, whenever an EXIM policy is released, it is always made available to the Members. I am surprised how this has not been done this time. I would request you to give a direction to the Government, especially to the Commerce Ministry to see that before the end of the present session, this EXIM policy book is made available to us.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Rajasthan): It is an important document. The Export-Import policy was announced on 1st of April and it

has not been placed on the Table of the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Jaipal Ji, Members are demanding that the EXIM policy should be laid on the Table of the House. It has also been alleged to have been circulated, according to them. Will you please...

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): I will immediately enquire about it, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister is not here. He is attending the SAARC meeting.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: It can be laid on the Table with your permission by another Minister. I will enquire about it.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: I understand it was released on 1st April. Now, it is 12th May. It is almost one-and-a-half months.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Swaminathan Ji, I will check up about it and come back to you tomorrow by this time.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Madam, Mr. Jaipal Reddy had earlier said two days before that he would come before the House on the question of gas and telephones quotas. What has he done? Madam, everyday he says he will come before the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He come before the House. That cannot be denied.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Agarwalji, you must give a margin for the intervening holidays also.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri K.R. Malkani.

RE : U.S. INTERFERENCE IN THE MATTER OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

SHRI K.R. MALKANI (Delhi): Madam Chairperson, we in this house have repeatedly taken note of the undue interference by the U.S.A. in the internal affairs of India. This interference continues unabated.

In the last six months, the U.S. Ambassador has visited Kashmir three times. He has not only gone himself; he has taken his political advisers, his military attach, his naval attache and others. He has been meeting the Governor and other Officers. He has been meeting the terrorists. He has even met our Corps Commander. I understand that he wanted information about our military preparedness and operational plans in Kashmir. His latest thinking is that the Jammu and Kashmir State should be re-organised into three units along —religious lines one Muslim, one Hindu and one Buddhist; and that they should be given autonomy. Madam, it is the business of India how we organise or re-organise our States. How is it the business of any foreigner to advise us on this subject?

This interference has been continuing unabated. Only a few months back, we took note of what the Vice-President of America, Mr. Gore, said about the "continuing civil conflict in Khalistan". Very rightly, Mr. Gujral, who was at that time, our External Affairs Minister, described it as "highly objectionable. "But this thing continues. Mr. Wisner said at the time that there was a misunderstanding. There was no misunderstanding. It was a letter in writing. It was deliberate mischeif.

Mr. Wisner, about the same time addressed the Jammu University and said that we as a bigger power, a stronger power, should be generous to Pakistan. I appreciate his generosity. But I think example is better than precept. Why can't the USA be a little more generous to Cuba or Iran or Iraq or others? Secondly, he said that the India-Pakistan leadership should be meeting every fortnight. We might wish to meet not only once a fortnight; maybe every week, every day, as we like. How is it the business of a foreign Ambassador to advise us in this matter?

The real trouble is that around this time, of the statements by Mr. Wisner and Mr. Gore, the White-House spokesman, Mr Michael Mr. Curry said— and I quote— "U.S. considers Kashmir a disputed principality". This is the real trouble. This is what they want. The Chief Minister of Kashmir very wisely said at the time that but for the American armed assistance to Pakistan, India and particularly the State of Jammu and Kashmir, would not have been facing the problem that they were facing.

I think the Government of India should protest to Washington against this continuing and unacceptable interference in our internal affairs.